can have maximum 12 and minimum 4 Directors.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) For foreign travel of Chairman ITPO, approval of Commerce Ministry is required;

(e) The tours are carefully selected and undertaken, depending upon the requirements, with the approval of Ministry of Commerce.

(f) No, Sir.

Colachal Port in Kanyakumari

@1508. SHRI S. AUSTIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Government to make the Colachal Port in Kanyakumari as a Free Port as per the decision of the Exports Committee which visited the port recently ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and by when the decision will be announced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Free Port Advisory Committee has recommended the location of a Free Port in Goa. Colachal in Tamilnadu is one of locations considered by the Advisory Committee for this purpose. Inter-Ministerial and Inter-Governmental, consultations on the report of the Committee are underway but no time frame can be indicated within which a decision is likely to be taken.

Export of Rice

1509. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has assured that Non-Basmati rice will not be exported; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to implement this decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Government has decided that only super fine varieties of non-basmati rice are allowed to be exported subject to Minimum Export Price of US $ 250 per Metric Tonne.

Lifting of minimum export price on rice exports

1510. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to lift the minimum export price (MEP) restrictions on rice exports; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Agricultural Exports

1511. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

@Previously Unstarred Question 1263, transferred from the 5th May, 1993.